(c) if so, the details of this meeting and achievements thereof;

(d)whether MPEDA will outsource marine product export and concentrate on development fishing fleets; and

(e) the reasons for diversifications of MPEDA and dilution of its basic charter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e): The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been set up to take measures for development of the marine products industry with special reference to exports which, *inter-alia,* also includes developing and regulating offshore and deep-sea fishing and undertaking measures for the conservation and management of off-shore and deep-sea fisheries with the specific mandate to regulate and promote export of marine products. The exploitation of tuna resources has been identified as one among the several thrust areas to be actively pursued. In this regard, MPEDA launched 22 converted vessels for tuna fishing on 12.10.2007 from Vishakhapatnam. The Government of India formulates export policies with regard to marine product after consultations with all stakeholders, including, significantly MPEDA. There has been no dilution in the basic charter of MPEDA, and in the course of implementing its basic charter (elucidated above), all backward and forward linkage tracks are required to be covered to ensure holistic attainment of MPEDA's basic mandate.

Opposition to foreign investment in retail trade

†*194. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States like Kerala have not allowed to open Western style retail food stores;

(b) the steps taken by Government for the protection of traditional retail business of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian retail traders are opposed to allowing the retail trade open for foreign investors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for the redressal of their objections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) While Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not allowed in retail trading except for retailing of Single Brand Products, there is no restriction on domestic retailers to establish retail stores in the country. However, certain States like Kerala have, in principle, opposed entry of domestic companies in the retail sector in the States.

(c) Government has received various representations from industry associations against allowing FDI in retail trade.

(d) The present policy does not permit FDI in retail trade except Single Brand retail where FDI up to 51%, with prior Government approval, is allowed.

Products sold under Single Brand Retail with FDI cater to the brand-conscious young, middle class clientele having a difference niche as compared to that served by the small traders. Hence, FDI in retail trade of single brand products is not expected to affect the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

existing small traders. Government has recently instituted a study to assess the impact of organised retailing on unorganised retail trade through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

Closing down/restarting some of the NTC Mills

†*195. SHRI PYARELALKHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken a decision to close down and to reopen some of the mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to involve private partnership in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) As per the Rehabilitation Scheme, 2002, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved revival of 53 viable mills and closure of 66 unviable mills of National Textiles Corporation (NTC) under the Industrial Disputes (ID) Act. 65 unviable mills were closed under the Act. Details are given in statement-I. *(See* below) 2 Mills (one viable and one unviable) located in the Union Territory of Puducherry have been transferred to the Government of Puducherry. With this, NTC has been left with 52 viable mills.

As per the Modified Rehabilitation Scheme, 2006 approved by BIFR and Group of Ministers (GOM), out of the total 52 mills, 12 mills have been identified for further closure where there was no production activity and most of the employees opted for benefits of Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). List of 12 mills is given in Statement-II. *(See* below).

Out of the remaining 40 mills, 22 mills will be modernized by NTC itself Statement-Ill *(See* below) and 18 mills will be modernized through Joint Venture route Statement-IV. *(See* below) Out of these 18 JV mills, private partners to run five mills identified for JV, have been finalized. The details are given in Statement-V.

Statement-I

List of 65 Mills closed under ID Act

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Mills
1	2	3.
1.	Rajasthan	Edward Mills
2.	Punjab	Dayalbagh Mills Panipat
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Woollen Mills
4.		Kalyanmal Mills Swadeshi
5.		Textile Mills
6.		Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills

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